

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00711 271630Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-10

SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 AID-05 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /078 W

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Z O 271605Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7158

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, US, UK

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: US ROLE IN BRITISH SBA REFUGEE

RELEASE

1. EIGHT-COLUMN BANNER HEADLINE IN MAJOR AFTERNOON DAILY VRADYNI ON JANUARY 27 ENTITLED "SHAMEFUL BLACKMAIL", DATELINED WASHINGTON REPEAT WASHINGTON TODAY (BYLINED GOERGE DEMOPOULOS), CLAIMS THAT PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF SECRETARY WITH HMG LED TO THE TRANSFER OF 8,000 TURKISH CYPRIOTS FROM THE ARKROTIRI BASE TO THE ISLAND'S NORTHERN SECTOR. ACCORDING TO THIS STORY TURKISH FONMIN ESENBEL NOTIFIED THE SECRETARY THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION COULD NOT BEGIN BEFORE THESE REFUGEES WERE RELEASED. THE STORY CONTINUES THAT THE SECRETARY DEMANDED FROM BRITISH FONSEC CALLAGHAN THAT HMG IMMEDIATELY PERMIT THE DEPARTURE OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS IN ORDER NOT TO ENDANGER THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. THE REPORTER CLAIMS THAT CALLAGHAN RESISTED THIS BUT FINALLY GAVE IN.

2. EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON FONMIN BITSIOS ALSO ADVISED ME

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 00711 271630Z

THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT THIS STORY WOULD APPEAR. HE

EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBLE
REACTION TO IT IN GREECE AND SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE UNFAIR FOR THE SECRETARY AND THE USG TO TAKE THE BLAME
FOR SOMETHING FOR WHICH WE WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE. BITSIOS URGED
THE DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER HAVING THE SPOKESMAN ISSUE A
STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON TODAY DENYING THAT THE SECRETARY
OR THE USG HAD PLAYED ANY SUCH ROLE IN HMG'S DECISION
REGARDING THE RELEASE OF TURKISH CYPRIOT REFUGEES FROM
THE WESTERN SBA.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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05 JUL 2006

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Type: TE
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